Development of Thiruvananthapuram Airport

1600. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of land acquired for the development of Thiruvananthapuram International Airport so far and whether the area acquired is sufficient for the proposed development including the construction of new terminal;

(b) whether Government propose to acquire land required for the development of Thiruvananthapuram Airport on market rate; and

(c) the details of airports in Kerala which are levying user's fee for the international flights and whether Government would consider to discontinue the user's fee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) 27 acres of land required for first phase of development of international passenger terminal with apron, city side facility and other necessary infrastructure has already been acquired.

(b) Land is being acquired by the State Government which is being handed over to Airports Authority of India free of cost.

(c) Airports Authority of India is not levying user's fee at its airports. However, Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL), an airport established under public private partnership at its own level and without approval of the Central Government has levied user's fee at the rate of Rs. 500/- per passenger, from the international departing passengers only. The matter is being taken up with CIAL management.

New Airport in Punjab

1601. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct an airport at Phillaur (Punjab) in view of massive movement to and from the Doaba Region;

(b) whether the State Government of Punjab has taken up the matter with Central Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?